SHORTCHANGED

PRELIMINARY DATA

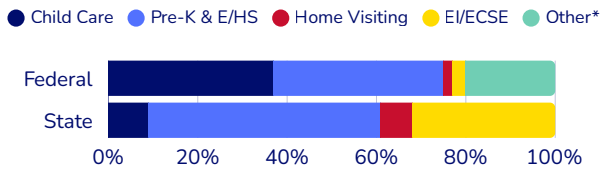
South Carolina 2024

For every dollar spent on school-aged students in South Carolina, $0.11 was spent on infants and toddlers, and $0.22 on preschool-aged children.

South Carolina invested over **$654 million** in early care and education in 2024. Of these investments in birth to kindergarten-entry:

- **39%** supported infants and toddlers, and **61%** supported children aged three to kindergarten-entry.
- **66%** came from federal sources, and **34%** came from state funds.

ECE Spending by Program Type

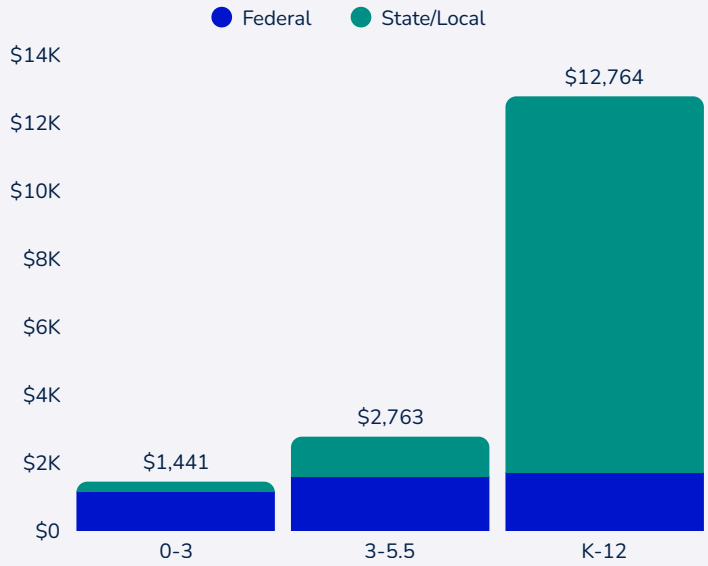


Between 2023 and 2024, South Carolina increased state-specific spending on children from birth through kindergarten-entry by more than $41 million.

In 2024, South Carolina supported early care and education through dedicated programs such as the First Steps School Readiness Program and the Education Improvement Act Child Development Program (EIA 4K). Continued investments will be reflected in future reports.

**Other federal funding includes the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS).*

Per Capita Spending by Age Group



South Carolina's ECE Investment Rankings

Rankings reflect state/local per capita investment in ECE compared to state/local per capita investment in K-12.

#30 /50 in 0-5.5

#29 /50 in 0-3

#29 /50 in 3-5.5

Rankings are subject to change as new data becomes available.

Children in South Carolina by Age Group

0-3	3-5.5	School-Aged
176k	**145k**	867k

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South Carolina 2024

Total Funding by Spending Category and Age

Category	Nationally Reported Federal Dollars	State and Local Dollars	Nationally Reported Federal + State Dollars			
			0- 3	3-5.5	K-12	Total
Child Care	$198,228,361	$25,134,830	$93,711,282	$84,611,277	$45,040,633	$223,363,191
State Preschool/ Early Education	$-	$115,624,307	$-	$115,624,307	$-	$115,624,307
Home Visiting/ Parent Education	$8,874,100	$14,435,232	$20,046,026	$3,263,306	$-	$23,309,332
Early Intervention/ PreK Special Ed	$15,410,479	$72,208,619	$37,990,214	$49,628,884	$-	$87,619,098
Other 0 to 3 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
Other 3 to 5.5 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
Other 0 to 5.5 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
K - 12 Expenditures	$1,419,613,757	$9,583,826,936	$-	$-	$11,003,440,693	$11,003,440,693
Other Federal Funding Streams	$265,385,852	$-	$102,048,404	$147,416,035	$15,921,413	$265,385,852
Total	$1,907,512,549	$9,811,229,924	$253,795,925	$400,543,810	$11,064,402,739	$11,718,742,473

Help us get this right.

We rely on partners and state experts to ensure our data is accurate. If something here needs a correction, please reach out: **svanvalkenburgh@niu.edu**

Scan or click the QR code to learn more about The Shortchanged Project.

Center for Early Learning Funding Equity
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY